

D R A F T

GRETTON PARISH COUNCIL
Gretton, Corby, Northamptonshire.
www.grettonparishcouncil.co.uk

Minutes of the meeting of Gretton Parish Council held on **Monday 8th July 2019** at 7.30pm.

Present: Frances Woolston (Chairman), Tim Fox, Marshall Ferguson, Phil Bromhall, Terri Meechan, Robert Collis, Julie Smith, Mark Thompson, Matthew Moore, Cllr Kevin Watt (CBC), Cllr Sandra Naden-Horley (NCC), Jackie Clark (Clerk) and one Member of the Public.

Apologies: Cllr Cathie Layland (CBC), Joe Devlin (PCSO), Cllr Bridget Watts (CBC) Robert Lowe (CBC).

Chairman reminded councillors to declare an interest either prejudicial or non-prejudicial on any item which may be discussed.

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 10th June 2019 were declared to be a true record and duly signed by the chairman.

Meeting Open to the Public: No matters raised.

Report from Corby Borough Councillor:

Cllr Kevin Watt gave some feedback following a recent committee meeting that he had attended regarding the forthcoming changes for North Northamptonshire to a Unitary Authority. The following working groups were set up, Corby BC, Wellingborough BC, Kettering BC, East District North Northants BC working alongside Northamptonshire County Council. These will decide the make up of the formation representing the County Council when elections take place on 1st May 2020, forming shadow authorities and, although they will not have any jurisdiction, they will be preparing to start running their Unitary the following year. As a result, BC and CC Councillors will remain in post for the next 2 years. 1st May elections will comprise 78 Unitary councillors with 3 for the Corby Rural area and will look at independent recommendations for going forward. It was also acknowledged that the Corby Local Plans are moving forward. Cllr Kevin Watt has discussed the issue of traffic in the Weldon area although he didn't think there were any significant concerns regarding generation of traffic and problems in Gretton. The PC raised the issue again regarding the desire to have a weight limit in some areas through Gretton, however, Cllr Kevin Watt explained that this was not covered by the Local Plan as it is now because it is so far forward, however, we can consult with County Council about improved signage.

It was reported that the Corby/Gretton Brook Road junction area is not being maintained and the sign for restricted vehicles has also been knocked over. Cllr Sandra Naden-Horley agreed to report these matters tomorrow but also said that these issues should be reported on Fix My Street.

Cllr Kevin Watt has attended a presentation that took place regarding Corby's responsibility for Travellers. He reported that CBC have to provide a couple of extra pitches and, as a result of the Unitary changes, these may be across the top of the county. He agreed to obtain the information as to which type of vans are eligible to use these sites.

It was confirmed that the lights have been repaired on Huntsfield Drive, enquiries will be made about the progress of repairs on the damaged knee rail fence.

The Shelton Road Development will be discussed at Corby Borough Council Development Control committee on Tuesday 9th July 2019. NCC will make the final decision, and, although CBC originally voted against the application, following a recent presentation Councillor Watt believed that there is now a more positive feeling amongst councillors towards the application

Chairman raised concerns about the withdrawal of the Rural Area grant of £9,000 (25% of our income) from GPC and the implications that this would have on the services provided. It is important that GPC quantify what services we will lose without this sum and present this information to CBC. This has previously been outlined to CBC but it was agreed that this should be looked at in detail, as a committee, and pursued through the Rural Area Forum. Cllr Watt informed the PC that Weldon are looking to employ a Community Worker for 12 months whose role will be to set a standard for community involvement (to be engaged with all people, including younger and older groups). Although this maybe beneficial, it has to be paid for and it was suggested it would have to be taken to the people because there would be a rise in precept.

The Unitary will be a planning authority for the whole of North Northants and responsible for planning work, quarries, waste, schools and such like, therefore, some sub-committees may be set up. In addition to this, a Trust may be set up to hold historical records. As yet, it is not known where the Unitary Head office will be situated.

It was noted that proof of spend and invoices must be provided for Section 106 Agreement money to be released within the timescales indicated.

Report from County Councillor:

It was reported that plans for Unitary changes are a little behind than that of the other side of North Northamptonshire. Each borough is working with NCC to see how the new Unitary Authorities will look going ahead. NCC will stay a Sovereign Council until Vesting Day, 1st April 2021. Cllr Naden-Horley stressed that it is important for representatives from PC to attend the meetings for RAF (Chairman and Clerk) and ask questions. Delivery of funding for services is key and it was suggested that the PC contact NALC to get a briefing on our role going forward.

Cllr Kevin Watt commented that the Planning Inspectorate Appeal regarding the Gladman Development starts on 9th July and he is hoping to be able to attend at some stage. Chairman added that the Neighbourhood Plan will be used as evidence regarding Gretton's future housing requirements.

CBC Cllr. and NCC Cllr. left the meeting.

Matters Arising:

- 59 War Memorial pointing of main step: MT to feedback with quote for work to be done.
- 134 Progress re consideration of disabled access to village green: MT and PB agreed to investigate this again further.
- 182 Clearing of drains Station Road, Clay Lane and Arnhill: To be reported on Street Doctor.
- 183/252 Trimming of trees and overgrown areas: PC to produce a standardised letter requesting resident's tidy areas where trees/bushes overhang on public footpaths or neighbouring gardens.
- 185 Position with repair to fence in cemetery: Clerk to ascertain who is responsible for this fence.
- 215 Painting of yellow zig zags outside the school and traffic calming measures: Clerk to confirm date for work to be completed.
- 225 Refurbishment of allotment land Fulwell Avenue. Clerk to follow up.
- 227 Budget and cash flow following withdrawal of grant from CBC and efforts to have grant reinstated: FW and Clerk to attend meeting on 18th July 2019.
- 237 Re-siting of dog bin on recreation ground: Clerk to contact Environmental Services to find out the new location of the bin.
- 241 Position re Gladman Development: Planning Inspectorate 9th July. FW to attend.
- 249 Appointment of caretaker/cleaner for recreation ground: S. Ellis has taken on the role of caretaker for the Sports Pavilion on the basis that he would not require payment but asked that the Parish Council paid for an extra grass cut per month on the cricket field during the season.

Report on Neighbourhood Plan for Gretton:

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 27th June 2019, between the PC and Gretton Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee, were declared to be a true record. Tim will email Susan Husk to clarify a couple of points. Chairman explained that, once the document is approved, the PC will need to look at the extra responsibilities involved and organise accordingly.

Following the meeting on 27th June, the Neighbourhood Plan Committee will meet on 16th July 2019 to discuss any final amendments to the Plan. This will be followed by a PC meeting, 12th August, to approve the final copy before it is submitted to CBC. Jacki Lilley will be invited to attend our meeting on 12th August 2019.

Correspondence:

A request to change the name of Gretton News to Gretton Life was approved.

A letter received from local residents regarding fencing at 6 Craxford Road was discussed. It was reported that a Planning Officer has visited the site and the matter is being dealt with by the CBC. Clerk will write to the residents concerned to confirm that this was discussed at the meeting, their concerns were noted but it is in the hands of CBC.

Northants CALC: The AGM takes place on Saturday 5th October 2019 from 10am to 1pm. One of the speakers will be Sarah Mason talking on "Life after Unitary Reorganisation - The Parish & Town Council Perspective". Chairman and Clerk will attend.

Northampton Rural Matters was recently distributed via email.

An email has been received from a local resident regarding disabled access to the village green and Mark Thompson and Phil Bromhall agreed to investigate this again further.

Circulation: None

Report on Recreation Ground:

Tim reported that drainage from the car park is causing some problems on the MUGA and it was agreed to ask the original contractors to investigate.

PABS Electrical have recently replaced the septic tank pump motor that was jammed with cloth material. It was recommended that the septic tank should be cleaned out and the PC will share this cost with the Sports Club. Pat Butler to arrange this.

Steve Ellis had agreed to take on the role of caretaker for the Sports Pavilion on the basis that he would not require payment but asked that the Parish Council paid for an extra grass cut per month on the cricket field during the season. This offer was gratefully accepted.

Fun Day, Sunday 14th July. Tim asked for volunteers to help set up from 9am or at 2pm onwards to help with the games. He confirmed that a local estate agent is will be erecting Simpson West boards in the village with advertising for the Fun Day for a payment of £200.

Planning:

19/00237/CON 9 Station Road: Chairman wrote a letter of complaint to Mr. Stronach, Planning Department on 12th June 2019 outlining PCs concerns. A reply was received on 20th June 2019.

The Planning Inspectorate issued a Temporary Stop Notice on the 18th June 2019 requiring all works to stop with immediate effect for a temporary period of 28 days.

19/00247/COU 44 Arnhill Road: Although no objections were raised, PC to notify the Planning Department regarding concerns with respect to parking and turning of vehicles.

Gladman Development.

Planning Inspectorate Appeal commences 9th July 2019. Chairman to attend.

Finance

Current balance £16,501.83

Amounts owing:

Anglian Water (allotments) £ 69.59

J.Hindle (April - June) £ 924.84

PABS Electrical (septic tank pump) £ 275.00

Cash:

Internal auditor £ 50.00

Flag Steward £ 40.00

Petty Cash £ 29.55

John Hindle is in the process of closing the bank account in Northampton, he has made contact with NatWest in Corby with respect to opening a new account.

It was agreed that, to assist the new administration, a Finance sub group would be set up. This group would comprise of Frances, Tim, Matthew and Jackie.

Highways

A discussion took place regarding the increase in traffic throughout the village, particularly during peak times. It was agreed that the Clerk would enquire when Gretton is next scheduled for Corby Council to place the Speed Indicator Device in the village.

Police

Fran reported that she had spoken to our PCSO when he made a visit to the Gretton Cubs. He said that he made occasional visits to Lydia's but no one turns up. Work commitments/shifts make it very difficult for him to attend PC meetings, there are no longer statistics available. Fran asked that he keep us informed every 3 months or so. He did say that he is aware that issues are reported on Gretton FB page but residents have to report these to the police so that a crime number can be issued.

Tim informed all that, in the Northants Police Newsletter, it was reported that 5 parishes have clubbed together to sponsor their own PCSO. Maybe this is something that the PC can consider once the Unitary comes along.

Any Other Business

Marshall - Stonepit Close field, which is rented from the PC, needs to be tidied. Tenant to be contacted.

It was agreed that the PC produce a standardised letter requesting resident's tidy areas and fields where hedges, trees etc. are overgrown on public footpaths or neighbouring gardens.

Phil informed the PC that the Church now has a light on the path. He has been in contact with Suzanne Preston to request that the bin in the Pocket Park is emptied on a more regular basis.

Mark - It was reported that the poo bin at the end of Stafford Road has been moved although it is not apparent where to. Clerk to contact Environmental Services to find out the new location of the bin.

Julie - It was reported that the tree house in the garden of a house at the end of Harringworth Road is now being rented out as suitable accommodation on airbnb uk.

Date of next meeting to be Monday 12th August, 2019 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall for the Parish Council to accept the Neighbourhood Plan. This will be the only item on the agenda.

Frances Woolston
Chairman, Gretton Parish Council